

## Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

OMB-01 IO-10 /071 W

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P R 290916Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9777

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 3027

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, KS

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT PAK ADDRESSES NATION ON NORTH KOREAN THREAT

SUMMARY: ON MORNING OF APRIL 29, PRESIDENT PAK DELIVERED FORTY-FIVE MINUTE SPEECH CALLING FOR UNITY OF ROK IN FACE OF NORTH KOREAN THREAT BUT OFFERING LITTLE THAT WAS NEW. SPEECH EMPHASIZED HEIGHTENED DANGER OF ATTACK FROM NORTH ALTHOUGH HE REFRAINED FROM CITING ANY SPECIFIC MEASURES AIMED AT COUNTERING THAT THREAT. END SUMMARY.

1. PRESIDENT PAK TALKED AT LENGTH ABOUT INDOCHINA SITUATION AND ITS RAMIFICATIONS FOR KOREA. HE NOTED THAT COMMUNISTS REMAIN "DEVIOUS" WHETHER IN SOUTHEAST ASIA OR IN NORTH KOREA HINTING AT US ROLE IN INDOCHINA, PAK SAID SOUTH KOREA CAN NO LONGER DEPEND SOLELY ON HELP FROM FRIENDLY NATIONS AGAINST ATTACK.

2. PRESIDENT SAID THAT DIVISION OF NATIONAL CONSENSUS DISTURBS ORDERLY FUNCTIONING OF STATE. EVEN THOUGH VIETNAM WAS VERY WELL-EQUIPPED MILITARILY, FOR EXAMPLE, IT WAS IN SERIOUS DIFFICULTY LARGELY AS A RESULT OF INTERNAL DISUNITY.

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3. PAK CALLED PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO FACT THAT

1975 IS DECISIVE YEAR FOR SOUTH KOREA, A YEAR IN WHICH NORTH MAY BE PLOTTING WAR. IN THIS REGARD PAK NOTED THAT UNDER OLD CONSTITUTION 1975 WAS SCHEDULED AS A SOUTH KOREAN ELECTION YEAR, ALWAYS A TIME OF VULNERABILITY, CONFUSION AND DISORDER. PAK SAID THIS PROVES WISDOM OF SUBSTITUTION YUSHIN CONSTITUTION FOR THE OLD ONE, THEREBY PRESERVING STABILITY.

4. PAK SAID SOUTH KOREA MUST CRUSH ANY NORTHERN ATTACK FROM VERY INCEPTION. BOTH U.S. AND ROK FORCES ARE READY AND CAPABLE OF REPELLING INVASION AND SOUTH MUST NOT YIELD EVEN ONE INCH OF KOREAN SOIL. WHILE WE MUST NOT EXAGGERATE SITUATION HERE, PAK SAID, WE MUST MAKE SURE NORTH UNDERSTANDS THAT WE HAVE 600,000 SOLDIERS UNDER ARMS AND 2.7 MILLION RESERVISTS PLUS U.S. FORCES. IF NORTH MISCALCULATES AND INVADES SOUTH, HE SAID, IT WILL LEAD TO THE NORTH'S DESTRUCTION.

5. COMMENT: PAK AVOIDED ANY MENTION OF SPECIFIC MEASURES TO BRING UNITY TO SOUTH AND DID NOT HINT AT ANY NEW RESTRICTIONS ON OPPOSITION. TO LARGE EXTENT, SPEECH SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN DESIGNED AS DETERRENT WARNING TO NORTH NOT TO MISCALCULATE SOUTH'S RESOLVE.  
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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PINT, PFOR, KS, XC, (PARK CHUNG HEE)  
**To:** STATE  
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